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C.I.A. Plans to Stay in Nicaragua

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WASHINGTON, May 29 — Despite warnings that money for the covert war against Nicaragua will run out June 1, the Central Intelligence Agency plans to keep American agents in operation until October in hopes of persuading Congress to provide more money, Administration officials said today.

Several officials said the C.I.A. had no more operational money to send arms and pay Nicaraguan rebel groups. But key members of Congress have said the rebels already have enough supplies to keep fighting for some time as the operation is scaled down.

These officials said some modest remaining funds were available to keep American agents in Central America.

The White House, rebuffed by the refusal of the House of Representatives last week to vote more money for Nicaraguan rebels in the current fiscal year, will make another attempt to keep the program alive next week in the Senate, which approved \$21 million in additional funds in early April.

"We intend to follow through on this request," a White House official said. "But there isn't much optimism."

Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, Democrat of New York, who is deputy

chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, urged the Administration today not to press for more money.

"The thing is that Congress no longer supports this activity," Senator Moynihan said in a telephone interview from his home in upstate New York. "It might not pass the Senate, and it will not pass the House."

Senator Moynihan also said many Democrats in Congress feared the C.I.A. would try to get around the Congressional refusal to vote more money by getting third countries like Israel or Saudi Arabia to finance the operations or use funds from other programs.

"There's a generalized suspicion that they are making an end run now financially," Senator Moynihan said.

George Lauder, a Central Intelligence Agency spokesman, denied any effort by the agency to circumvent Congressional restrictions by getting money elsewhere.

"It's unfortunate that Senator Moynihan feels this way," Mr. Lauder said. "The C.I.A. has asked no one for funds for Nicaragua but the Congress of the United States."